IDW
ISSUE
1

JOE HILL • GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ • JAY FOTOS

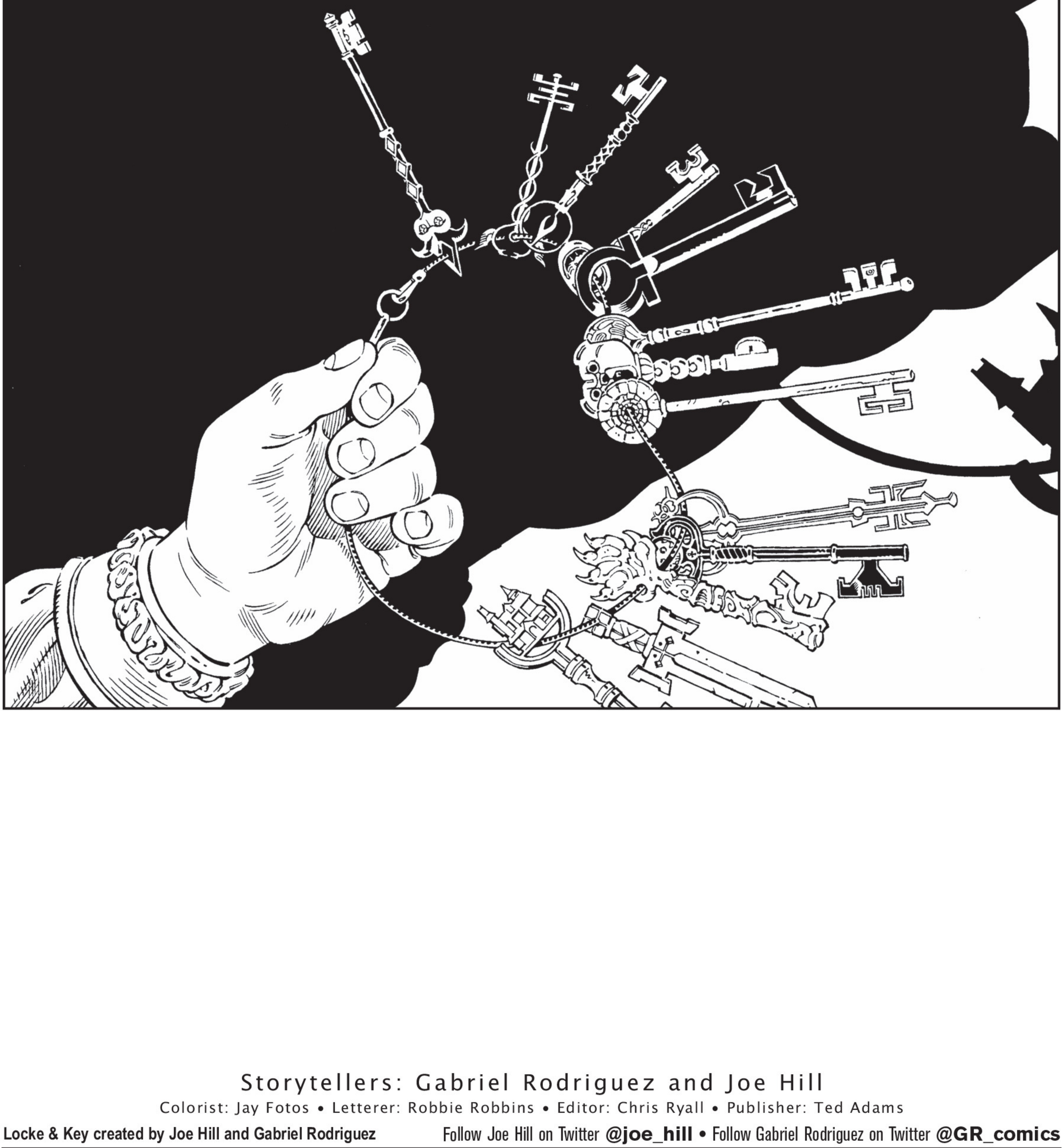
SMALL WORLD

LOCKE & KEY

For two hundred years, the Locke family has watched over Keyhouse, a New England Mansion where reality itself has come unhinged, and where shadows have been known to walk about on their own.

Here they have guarded a collection of impossible keys, instruments capable of unlocking unnatural forces. Those who carry the keys bear a dreadful responsibility...

...and the old wood of this house has been stained with blood more than once.



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Locke & Key created by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez

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HOLY TOLEDO.

MARY! MARY, I SEED HARLAND!

NO, JEAN. NOT "SEED." "SAW."

MMHM. I *SAWED* HARLAND. I *SAWED* HIM UPSTAIRS. HE WALKED IN AND LIED DOWN ON THE COUCH JUST LIKE HE'S *REAL*.

WELL.

WHEN THE SMALL WORLD KEY UNLOCKS THE HOUSE, THE FIGURES WITHIN WILL MOVE ABOUT ALMOST AS IF ALIVE. YOU CAN ALWAYS CHECK THE HOUSE TO FIND OUT WHERE ANY OF US MIGHT BE AT ANY ONE TIME AND—

WE'RE LIKE ZEUS AND HERA STARING DOWN FROM MOUNT OLYMPUS.

AAAH— YESSS, WELL, I WAS THINKING OF IT IN LESS GOD-LIKE TERMS.

A DOLLHOUSE IS A FINE WAY TO CONTEMPLATE THE FUNCTIONS OF A HAPPY FAMILY. EVERY YOUNG GIRL, OF COURSE, ASPIRES TO KEEP HOUSE AND WATCH OVER A KITCHEN AND CHILDREN...

WHAT'S ZEUS N'HEERA DO?

MOSTLY THEY METE OUT DIVINE JUSTICE.

WHAT STARTS AS GREEK MYTH OFTEN WINDS UP AS GREEK TRAGEDY.

PLEASE, MARY, I'M TRUSTING YOU TO USE THE DOLLHOUSE AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTRUMENT, TO LEARN THE ROLE OF, WELL...

...A LADY IN HER NATURAL EMPIRE OF THE HOME... NO, WAIT, DON'T—

JOHN! IT'S AN ATTACK! FIND FATHER, RAISE THE SHADOWS, ALERT HARLAND! I'LL HOLD THE ENEMY HERE!

URRRF!

JEAN WILL BE FOUR IN A FEW DAYS, AND YOU HAVE BEEN TEN FOR A WEEK—

ALMOST *TWO* WEEKS.

YES. ALMOST TWO WHOLE WEEKS.

OLD ENOUGH TO BEGIN ABSORBING THE DUTIES AND EXPECTATIONS THAT COME WITH BEING A YOUNG WOMAN.

AND JEAN WILL LEARN MUCH FROM YOUR EXAMPLE. I AM HOPEFUL THAT BOTH OF YOU WILL MAKE THE MOST OF THIS GIFT AND—*WHOOF!*

FATHER. I LOVE IT. YOU ARE *WONDERFUL* AND I ADORE YOU. IT'S THE BEST BIRTHDAY GIFT *EVER*.

IS IT? IS IT REALLY? YOU SEE ITS INSTRUCTIONAL QUALITIES?

OH, INDEED! I'M A BORN *SNOOP*.

I'M GOING TO ENJOY SPYING ON MY BROTHERS EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. I SEE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACKMAIL.

The Souls of Black Folks
W.E.B. Du Bois
WHATEVER IS HARLAND CARRYING ON ABOUT? SOMETIMES I FRET ABOUT THE OLD DEAR.
GIRLS, I DO HOPE YOU MAKE THE MOST OF THIS VERY SPECIAL—HARLAND, PLEASE. YOUR LANGUAGE! THE CHILDREN!
IT IS A GRAND BIRTHDAY PRESENT, ISN'T IT? FATHER AND HARLAND HAVE OUTDONE THEMSELVES.
I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE GREAT FUN WITH IT... WHEN IT'S *YOUR* TURN.
WHEN'S MY TURN?
OH, *JEAN*. I'VE ALREADY HAD MY BIRTHDAY, BUT YOURS ISN'T FOR *DAYS*. IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR YOU TO MEDDLE WITH THE DOLLHOUSE BEFORE THEN.
BUT DAD SAID IT WAS FOR *BOTH* OF US...
THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO PRACTICE PERSONAL RESTRAINT. NOW COME ALONG, YOU HAVE TO WASH YOUR HANDS AND FACE FOR DINNER.

AFTER THE DISHES, YOU CAN CLEAN UP THE WRECKAGE IN THE BACK STUDY, JOHN TYLER LOCKE... AND THEN STRAIGHT TO BED WITH YOU!

WHAT HAVE I SAID ABOUT ROUGH-HOUSE AND EXCITEMENT WITH YOUR BROTHER? YOU'LL GIVE IAN ONE OF HIS SPELLS!

Fiona Ingrid Locke

MARY'S THE ONE OUGHT TO BE SENT TO BED! IT'S HER FAULT! SHE CHASED ME WITH A PENCIL!

John Tyler Locke

...AND THERE'S *NEVER* BEEN A BOAT LIKE IT! ***BIGGEST*** IN THE ***WORLD***, WITH PROPELLERS THE SIZE OF ***HOUSES!***

I TELL YOU, FATHER, IT WILL CROSS THE ATLANTIC FASTER THAN HAS EVER BEEN DONE! I WISH I ***WAS*** ON IT.

Ian Ulysses Locke

I ***QUITE*** AGREE, IAN... THE 20TH CENTURY WILL BE AN ERA OF ***ENORMITY***: ENORMOUS MACHINES, STRUCTURES, AND IDEAS!

ONCE, THE OCEAN CROSSING TOOK WEEKS. NOW, A MASTERPIECE OF ENGINEERING LIKE ***R.M.S. TITANIC*** WILL DO IT IN ***DAYS!***

MAN'S EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE HAS ALLOWED HIM TO SHRINK THE WORLD AND ITS MANY TERRORS! WITH EVERY NEW TOOL AT OUR DISPOSAL, WE ENLARGE OUR OWN CAPACITY FOR PEACE, HARMONY, AND—JOHN! SAUSAGES ARE TO BE ***EATEN***, NOT ***LAUNCHED!***

Chamberlin Morse Walton Locke

CHASED YOU WITH A PENCIL? LOOKS LIKE SHE CHASED YOU WITH A TORNADO! PUT THAT FORK DOWN, CHILD! YOU—

Harland Benjamin Locke & Half Of Jean Thompson Locke

AAA!

PIG!

Mary Brigid Locke & The Other Half Of Jean Thompson Locke

GREAT GRIFFINS!

JEANIE! TIME FOR BED! YOU DON'T HURRY UP, YOU'LL MISS OUT ON THE STORY!

I DINT DO ANYTHING!

I DIDN'T ASK IF YOU HAD.

GOOD! 'COS IF YOU ASK, I DINT.

WIFE! A TOWEL!

...I NEED A DAMNED CIGARETTE.

I MUST ASK YOU, HUSBAND, NOT TO FLY ABOUT THE HOUSE IN THE TUB WHEN IT'S FULL OF WATER.

YES, WELL, PERHAPS SOME ***MORE*** BIRTHDAY GIFTS ARE IN ORDER. A LOVELY PAIR OF ***MOPS***, I THINK...

I AM GOING TO TEACH YOU GIRLS WHAT A MOP IS FOR, YOU HEAR ME?!?!

"THEN WENDY SAW THE SHADOW ON THE FLOOR, LOOKING SO DRAGGLED, AND SHE WAS FRIGHTFULLY SORRY FOR PETER."

Peter Pan

Peter Pan

J.M.B.

HARLAND? IF YOU SEE FATHER, WILL YOU TELL HIM I HOPED TO CONSULT WITH HIM BEFORE BED?

I HAVE DISCOVERED SATURN IN MY TELESCOPE. I KNOW HE'LL BE PLEASED.

WELL! AREN'T YOU THE KING OF THE NIGHT SKIES!

TO THE KING, HIS CROWN.

I'LL SEND HIM UP DIRECTLY.

CHAMBERLIN? FIONA?

WHY IS IT SO CHRIST-BLASTED DARK...

HEHN?

MMPH!

...WE AREN'T ON OUR OWN.

I HEARD A SCREAM. IF ONE OF YOU WEASELS IS TRYING TO SCARE US—

IT WASN'T US. I THINK IT WAS HARLAND, DOWNSTAIRS.

I'M SCAIRT. I WAN' MOM.

I DO TOO, JEANIE.

BUT DON'T WORRY...

I SAY WE CHARGE.

CHARGE WHAT, STUPID?

WHATEVER'S THERE.

WHY NOT TRY TO PUZZLE THINGS OUT FIRST? THAT'S WHAT FATHER WOULD WANT US TO DO. BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING CAN GET UP THE STAIRS PAST US.

I'M AS JUMPY AS A CAT. WHAT ABOUT YOU, TIBERIUS?

SSSS-RAWWWWAAAA...

OH, JEANIE. WE'RE IN TROUBLE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE SHADOWS?

IAN. HE'S HAVING A FIT.

WHERE'D THAT *THING* COME FROM?

WHAT'S IT MATTER?

BECAUSE IF THERE'S A GIANT SPIDER IN THE HOUSE, WE CAN BLAME A KEY. COUNT ON IT.

YEAH. RIGHT. AND KEYS TURN BOTH WAYS.

WHATEVER WAS USED TO UNLOCK IT AND SET IT FREE CAN BE USED TO LOCK IT AWAY AGAIN. BUT WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW. I'M SURE NO ONE'S BEEN TOYING AROUND WITH THE GIANT KEY, WE WOULD'VE HEARD, SO... HMM...

...TOYING WITH...

DAD SAID IT WAS TO *SHARE.*

COME ON. THE STAIRS IN THE SOUTH TOWER. WE CAN GET TO THE GROUND FLOOR THERE.

WHAT IF IT EATS IAN?

IT'S NOT EATING HIM...

"...IT'S BAGGING HIM UP FOR LATER."

JEAN— WAIT!

WHAT?

TIBERIUS. WHY DID TIBERIUS FREEZE?

JOHN! THIS WAY IS ALL SEWED UP!

HELL IT IS.

FINALLY... SOMETHING I CAN HIT.

JOHN, GET THAT OFF. PUT IT OUT!

I CAN HURT IT.

YOU CAN *HURT* YOURSELF. YOUR HAND IS GOING TO COOK.

THERE'S A KEY WILL FIX THAT.

BUT THERE'S NOTHING GOING TO FIX YOU, YOU UGLY SON OF A WHORE.

DID... DID... JOHN... BURN IT... BURN IT ALL UP—?!

NO. KEEP RUNNING.

IT'S COMING.

I'M SCAIRT, MARY. IT'S TOO BIG 'N WE'RE TOO LIDDLE.

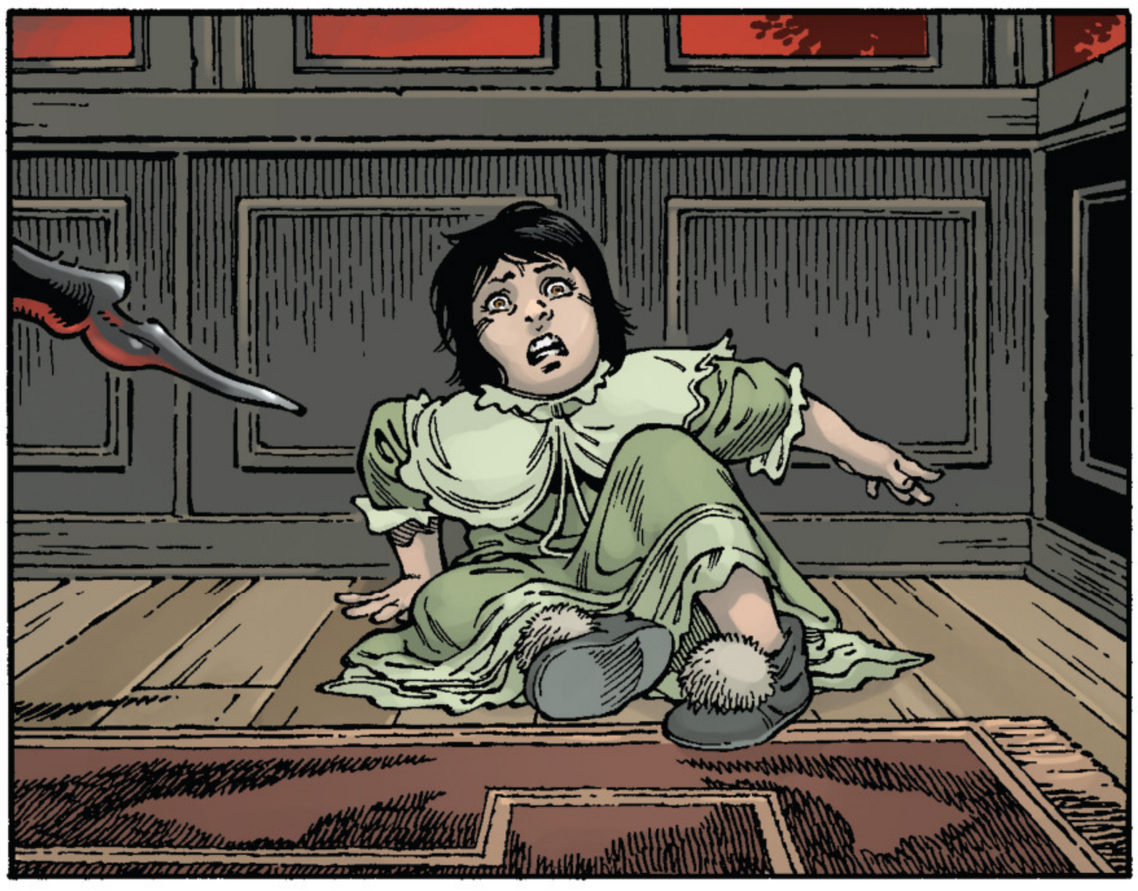
IT *IS* BIG. BIG ENOUGH TO MAKE BIG MISTAKES.

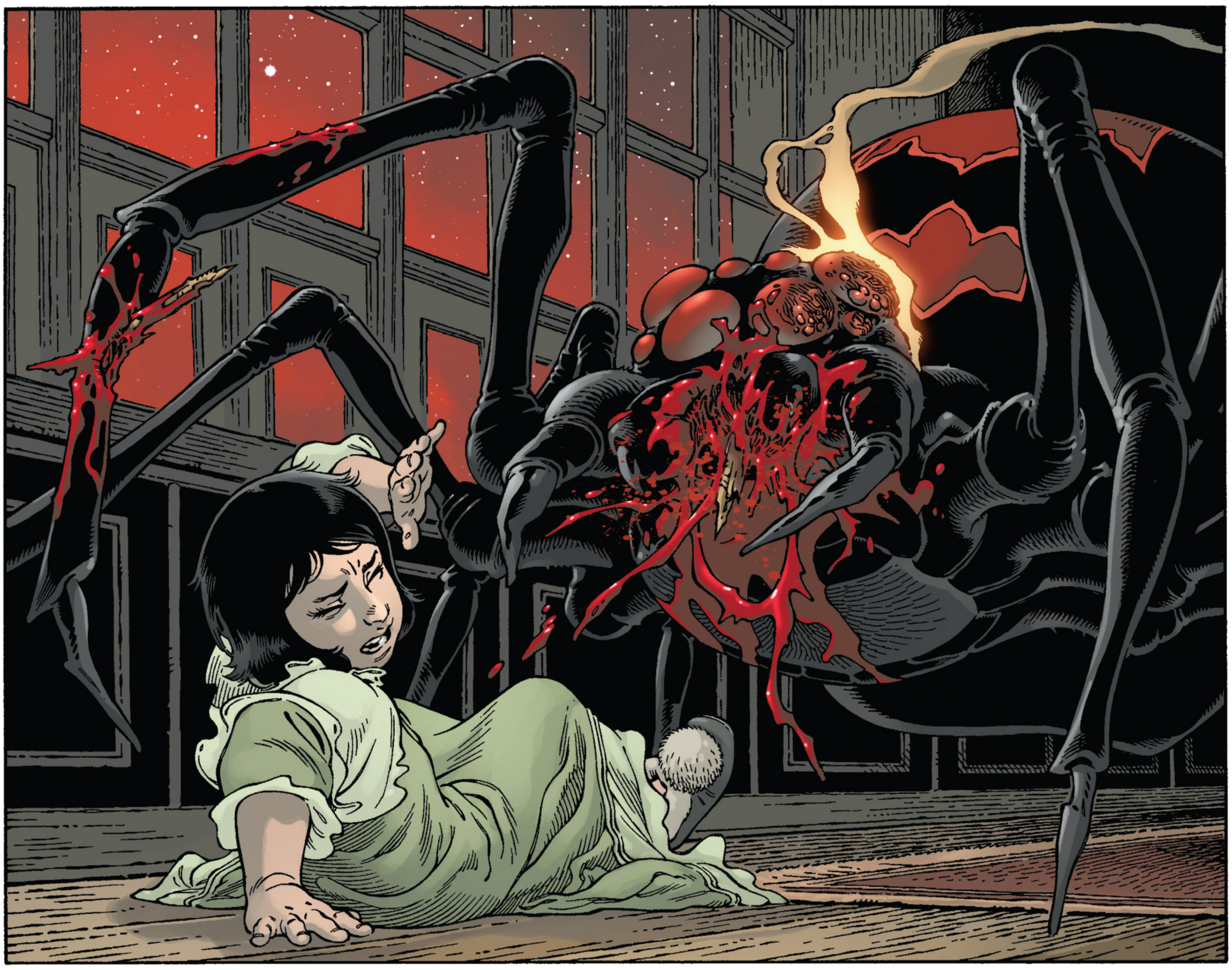
RUN, JEAN. GET TO THE DOLLHOUSE. I'LL KEEP IT HERE AS LONG AS I CAN.

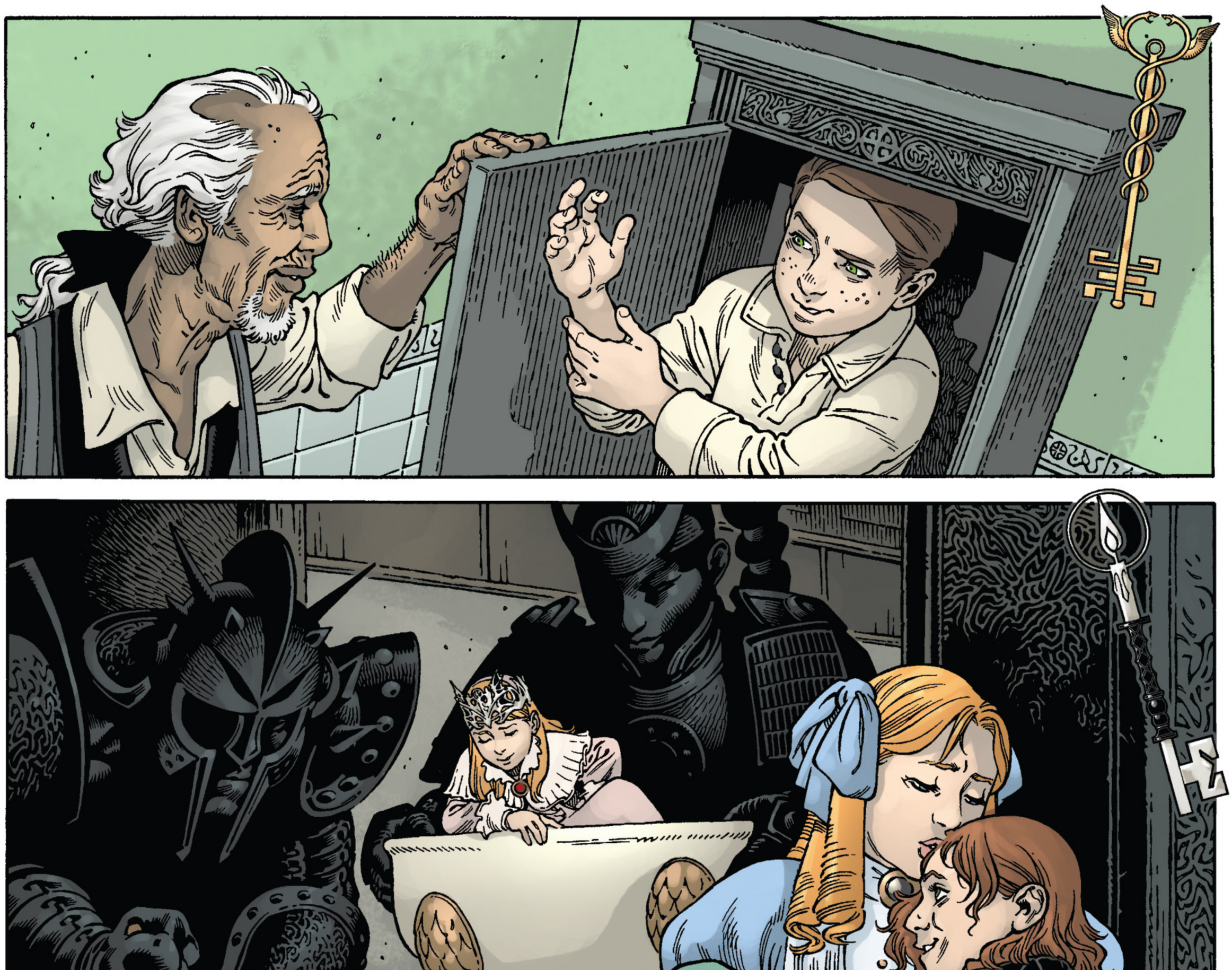
HEY! HEY YOU! DON'T LOOK AT HER! LOOK AT ME!

THERE'S A LOT MORE JUICE IN ME. COME ON OVER, BIG BOY.

GET A MOUTHFUL.







WHERE'S JEANIE AT?
SHE FELL ASLEEP CURLED UP WITH THE CAT.

LOCKE & KEY

SMALL WORLD

storytellers - **GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ** & **JOE HILL**
colorist - **JAY FOTOS** / letterer - **ROBBIE ROBBINS** / editor - **CHRIS RYALL**
for John Bellairs & Edward Gorey, with love from New Zebedee

LOCKE & KEY created by JOE HILL and GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

by Ted Adams

To celebrate the return of ***Locke & Key*** with this month's "Small World," I'm devoting this month's column to a conversation with the book's creators—**Joe Hill** and **Gabriel Rodriguez**.

TA: Joe, as the comic book adapter of Richard Matheson's *The Shrinking Man*, I have to ask if his novel influenced "Small World."

JH: Probably 80% of everything I've ever written has been influenced by Richard Matheson—"*Locke & Key: Small World*" being no exception. He is, to horror fiction, what Chuck Berry is to rock and roll. Foundational. People won't have to look hard to see the connection between *The Shrinking Man* and "Small World." It's in almost every panel of the last dozen pages.

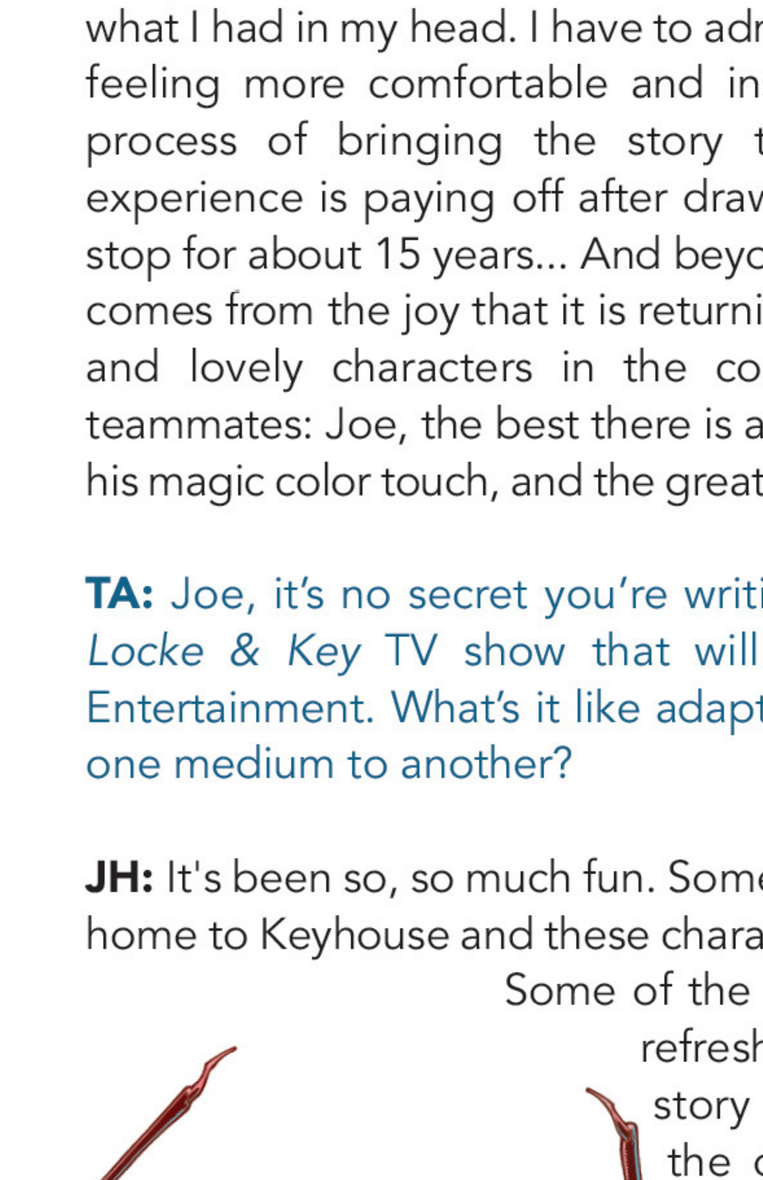
TA: Gabe, we just saw each other at New York Comic Con where you told me you were very happy with the work you're doing on "Small World." You've literally never done a piece of art that I haven't loved and I'm curious about what makes this feel different for you?

GR: Ah, well, thanks for the support as I try hard, 'cause I'm sure there's still A LOT for me to learn about drawing comics yet... But yes, as we talked about in New York, I feel more in control of what I'm doing than ever before. Applying all I've learned in the projects we did after finishing *Locke & Key* (*Onyx*, *Little Nemo*, and *Tales From The Darkside*) in this new book.

I'm very proud about what we achieved in the original series with the designs, worldbuilding and storytelling, but I always felt that the drawings themselves were hit or miss from what I had in my head. I have to admit, in "Small World," I'm feeling more comfortable and inspired than ever in the process of bringing the story to flesh. Hopefully the experience is paying off after drawing comics almost non-stop for about 15 years... And beyond that, I think most of it comes from the joy that it is returning to this amazing world and lovely characters in the company of my amazing teammates: Joe, the best there is at writing comics, Jay and his magic color touch, and the great editorial team from IDW!

TA: Joe, it's no secret you're writing the pilot script for a *Locke & Key* TV show that will be produced by IDW Entertainment. What's it like adapting your own work from one medium to another?

JH: It's been so, so much fun. Some of the fun is going back home to Keyhouse and these characters that I love so much. Some of the fun is in recharging and refreshing the narrative. The story is often very faithful to the original material; but at key moments I've broken off in new directions; tossed out old ideas, characters, and moments; and invented new ones. The spirit of the comic is there in every scene, but I've also made some important changes, to keep fans of the books off balance.



TA: I want a cookie jar that's modeled after Bode's open head from *Locke & Key: Head Games* and a Lego version of Key House. What's your dream *Locke & Key* merchandise?

JH: Oh, man, a Head Games cookie jar... that would be great! We gotta get Skelton Crew Studios on that.

I've been spoiled by all the great Skelton Crew merchandise for *Locke & Key*. I'd be ashamed to want anymore... if I could feel shame, that is! But since I can't, I'll say I'd love a working Music Box that I could activate with a music key.

And, obviously, a Lego Keyhouse is the dream.

TA: Any future plans for *L&K* comics?

GR: OH, YES. We've been discussing—since the original *Locke & Key* run—several ideas and characters we want to explore. We're already working in a set of short stories around the family of Chamberlin Locke that will complete a seventh *L&K* volume, but it will not stop there. We feel that Keyhouse is still asking us for more revisits, and the Locke family has grown in several branches that offer us chances for amazing stories.

And that's the **Key** point (pun!) in this situation: as long as we feel we're not 'exploiting a brand', as we think there are still worthy, fun stories to tell, we'll find a way to return to Lovecraft, Massachusetts. So we have already plotted the backbone of a new saga that hopefully will be as entertaining and meaningful for us as the previous one, so now it's just about finding the right time for all of us to do it. And hopefully it'll be sooner than later.

JH: I'll add to what Gabe said with a couple tentative thoughts. So, yeah, we've mapped out a plan for a new six book cycle, called ***World War Key***... a whole new 37 issue epic. But it's one thing to imagine it, and plan it, and another to actually do it. Even now, I'm not sure if it'll ever happen, or if it'll remain hypothetical.

But as Gabe said, there will be another *Locke & Key* book... *Locke & Key: The Golden Age*. "Small World" is a Golden Age story. So is "Grindhouse" and "Open the Moon." And there'll be three or four more, eventually. Golden Age would be a kind of interlude, not part of *Locke & Key: The Phantom Menace* and not part of *World War Key*.

Oh did I ever mention this? The original series, that began with *Welcome to Lovecraft* and ended with *Alpha & Omega*? That series title is actually *Locke & Key: The Phantom Menace*. Ted, when are we going to get around to reprinting the books to reflect that?

Ted? Ted? Why are you crying, Ted?

TA: Tears of joy, Joe! Wait a minute, I didn't hear anything after "a whole new 37 issue epic". Did I miss something…?

Thanks, guys. ***Locke & Key: A Small World*** is available this December with great covers by Gabe, **C.P. Wilson III**, and **David Petersen**. See you in 2017!

Three years after wrapping up their award-winning, best-selling *Locke & Key* saga, the team that built Keyhouse, **Joe Hill, Gabriel Rodriguez** and **Jay Fotos,** returns to Lovecraft, Massachusetts with a new tale of terror and suspense! An impossible birthday gift for two little girls unexpectedly throws open a door to a monster on eight legs!